

伝説のインターネット



Internet Legends

from around the world

Heaven Sent Gaming

written by Shigimori Shizuka

translated from Japanese by Tommy Greenwald

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Forward By The Translator

Internet Legends is a Japanese book series published by Golden Yen Publishing from the small farming town of Pippu, Hokkaido. The series focuses on internet celebrities from around the world. The series has covered many topics including; big social networking giants like Mark Zuckerberg of *Facebook* and Tom Anderson of *MySpace*, to big YouTubers like *Toby Turner/Tobuscus* and the *Vlogbrothers* John and Hank Green, to smaller self publishing websites like *Snafu Comics* and the topic of this book is *Heaven Sent Gaming*. The books have been distributed for free since 2010, and the series spans 12 individual books. I was lucky enough to be given the privilege of doing the same by distributing the books in English. This book, *Heaven Sent Gaming* is the newest in the series, as of the time of writing this forward, it was released on June 16, 2014. I took the liberty of translating this book first since it covered the broadest subject. Please enjoy, the book is written for Japanese audiences, but should contain valuable information for everyone to learn from.

Who is Heaven Sent Gaming?

Heaven Sent Gaming is Mario Lucero and Isabel Ruiz. They have been together since high-school, and are often referred to as high-school sweethearts, they are also referred to as a mom-and-pop entertainment production team. They have created comics, games, music, novels, video, and web entertainment.

When did they start?

As stated above, Mario and Isabel met in high-school, a private Seventh-Day Adventist school called Sandia View Academy. They have been making things together even since then. In fact, Heaven Sent Gaming was formed in order for Mario and Isabel to get their ideas into the public, and for them to spend more time together. Mario is a designer and Isabel is an artist, and their ideas melded together well. They went off to college together in 2006, at Collins College in Tempe, Arizona, and formed a team called Heaven Sent Gaming, and joined a larger college game development team called *Our Own Little Coup*.

Where do they come from?

Country: The United States of America



State: New Mexico | City: Albuquerque



Heaven Sent Gaming comes from The United States of America is one of the world's great powers. Alongside China, the U.K., France, Germany, Russia, and Japan. The United States consists of a union of 50 states. The capital of the U.S.A. is Washington D.C.

They are located in the 47th state of that union, New Mexico. The capital of the New Mexico is Santa Fe, and the largest city is Albuquerque. This state has a vibrant ancient culture dating back to the native americans like the Anasazi, Pueblo, Apache, and Navajo. The history continues through the original Spanish colonists, to the modern Americans. Much of the culture, in the state, is alive and very much celebrated. This is important especially in metropolitan areas like Heaven Sent Gaming's location in Albuquerque. Often times, in their work they reference New Mexican staples, like foods, such as Red and Green Chiles (local spicy vegetable) and Sopapillas (fried bread). They also reference locations such as the Sandias (mountains to the east of the city), the Bosque (forest surrounding the Rio Grande which runs through the middle of the city). And other references include local notables like Al Hurricane (rock-and-roll singer), Susanna

Martinez and Bill Richardson (governors), and Martin Chavez (mayor). They also reference Western Wear and the Wild West in general.

They also reference their American identity heavily, like Mario's personal inspiration source of Johnny Cash, or Isabel's personal inspiration of Walt Disney. Like most of the culturally rich states of America, New Mexicans tend to be proud Americans as well as proud of their state identity. Mario's family comes from a long line of American military. Isabel's family hails from Mexico, but both of her brothers have served in the American Army. They are very proud of those that have served in American military.

Another piece to understanding Heaven Sent Gaming would be their lineage and family histories. Mario's family history can be traced back to a Spanish mercenary that served in the American Revolution at George Washington's side. His lineage could be described as

nuevomexicano with European, Portuguese, Navajo, Pueblo, Italian, and others. Mario is the middle-child, between two sisters. He came from a family that was divorced, Mario's father (Horacio Pargas) was a cowboy and his mother was a working-class woman (Cathleen Lucero). Mario was very proud that his dad was a cowboy, and would often brag to his astounded elementary school-mates when they see the cowboy-hatted, spur-booted, pick-up truck driving, western-wear wearing, dad picking up Mario after school. He was a mama's boy, however, so after the divorce he was raised by a single mother until the age of 10. He attended public school during elementary education, and attended private schools from middle-to-high school. He would often spend his summers with his grandparents in Henderson, Nevada, near Las Vegas. His grandpa (Joe Mariano Lucero) was a trucker with Consolidated Freightways, and his Nana (Antonia "Toni" Lucero) was a

homemaker. He promised that when his grandfather retired he would move in with him. So he did, when they moved back to Albuquerque, he still would not be far from his mom, so she supported the decision.

Isabel's family came from Mexico, and can trace their lineage back to Spain and as far back as El Cid. She herself is a first-generation American, and is the youngest after two brothers. Her father (Ismael Ruiz) has been a business-man, auto mechanic, and teacher. Her mother (Maria Ruiz) is a Master of Education and graduated from the University of New Mexico. Isabel is well-versed in martial arts, and attended private Seventh-Day Adventist schools throughout the majority of her school career. Not much else is known about her history, so we will decode her artistic expressions later. As stated before, both Mario and Isabel met while attending Sandia View Academy during high-school.

The final and most important piece of the puzzle, to understanding *Heaven Sent Gaming*, is their religious backgrounds. Mario was raised Catholic and even attended Catholic catechism. He is currently a non-denominational Christian. Isabel was raised Seventh-Day Adventist. But, they are both devout Christians. In fact, the credo for HSG is a Bible verse 1 Corinthians 9:25.

Japanese Living Bible:

優勝するには、ベストを尽くせるよう、何事にも節制しなければなりません。競技の選手は、この世のメダルや優勝杯を得ようと、あらゆる困難と戦い、ひたすらトレーニングに励みます。しかし私たちは、神様から与えられる、決して朽ちない栄光を受けるために、そうするのです。

New International Version:

Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

Our Own Little Coup

This was the college game design team that Heaven Sent Gaming team was a part of.

The college game design team comprised of several people. Notables of the team include; Drew Cass, Mario Lucero, and Isabel Ruiz. As stated before, Mario and Isabel started Heaven Sent Gaming together. But, another member from this team, as mentioned, Drew Cass is a president of a company, in his home state of Maine, called Paradigm Trading. His company published the 2nd Edition of *Lai Wan: Tales of the Dreamwalker*. Another member of the old team, that is still active, is Jason Waggoner. Jason is the current editor of Heaven Sent Gaming.

Isabel Ruiz

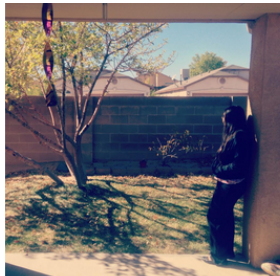
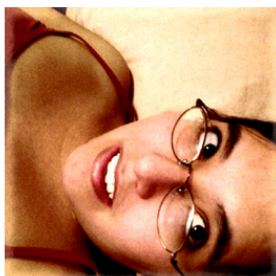
bio

- **Full Name:** *Isabel Ruiz*
- **Birth date:** *1989, March 30*
- **Gender:** *Female*
- **Current Residence:** *Albuquerque*
- **Height:** *approx. 1.5m*
- **Eye Color:** *Brown*
- **Hair Color:** *Brown*
- **Distinguishing Features:** *Long dark brown hair, dark skin, glasses, almond shaped eyes.*

As promised in the “Where do they come from?” section here is more information on Isabel, since much of her history remains private. Isabel Ruiz, the artist of Heaven Sent Gaming, shares the same birth date as one of the most revered artists of the 20th Century, Vincent van Gogh. So, fascination with the arts should come as no surprise. All anecdotal facts aside, her art-style is much different from most of the typical artists of this era. The artwork in her large swathe of illustrations and comics are different stylistically. According to a curator at Meguro Museum of Art, “her art, at its core, is sharp; reminiscent of the geometric designs found in pueblo and New Mexico, or southwestern

American, artwork.” At the same time the curator described a softness. The curator at the Ghibli Museum was able to better encapsulate the softness of her work, “the work is similar to the softness found throughout earlier Ub Iwerks creations, there are sharp distinct geometric designs, but the artist is expressing a gentle view of a rough world. Much like other early works by talented artists, Nick Park and Hayao Miyazaki, they are attempting to build something for us to feel, while still gently bringing their own worlds to life.”

photos (courtesy Heaven Sent Gaming)



Mario Lucero

bio

- **Full Name:** Mario J. Lucero
- **Birth date:** 1988, June 8
- **Gender:** Mario
- **Current Residence:** Albuquerque
- **Height:** approx. 1.7m
- **Eye Color:** Green hazel
- **Hair Color:** Black
- **Distinguishing Features:** Black hair done in various styles (usually pompadour), light skin, big eyes with a birthmark above his left eye and one in his right eye.

Mario Julian Lucero, known professionally as simply Mario J. Lucero, is the designer of Heaven Sent Gaming. Much of the information on Mario can be found in the “Where do they come from?” section. The only other information that we could place here is that he was shy around teachers, but was a class clown. During elementary school teachers, we were able to interview, referred to him as displaying “genius” tendencies; specifically in the areas of originality, and/or creativity. One high-school Literature teacher noted a creative writing assignment, in which Mario wrote “a convincing first hand account of an angel and a demon during an

ancient uprising in the universe, leading to the demon getting into heaven and the angel falling from heaven”. One final note would be that he was slightly named after his grandpa, who is J. M. Lucero, whereas Mario is M. J. Lucero.

photos (courtesy Heaven Sent Gaming)



Published Works

Since Heaven Sent Gaming is a publisher, the most important thing to discuss is their published works. We will be going over them briefly as each could potentially be covered in a book themselves.

Comics

Their two most successful/important series are *Reverie*, *Thad's World Destruction: Before Destruction*, and *Karis*.

Reverie is a panel comic, done in the style of old American comic strips. The series tells slice-of-life stories about a group of children. The children are plant-based aliens from a planet called Holiri (pronounced Hall-lur-ee). Though the kids are aliens on an alien world, their lives play-out similarly to human children. They work jobs, they play games, they go to school, and they have hobbies. Amalia, a red-headed girl

character, is good at everything. Bronjay, a gray-hooded character, is silly, light-hearted, and a bit ditzy. Bronwen, the younger brother of Bronjay, is a genius that builds mecha and other scientific marvels. Hoopes, a dread-locked character, is a bit ditzy like his best friend Bronjay but sometimes shows genius tendencies. Milly, a blonde-haired character, is similar to Bronjay in that he is ditzy, but she is much more charismatic and outgoing. Their adventures center around their imagination and situations arising out of their ditzy behaviors.

Thad's World Destruction: Before Destruction, is American comic done in a Japanese comic style. It is a prequel for a future-planned video game series. The comic is a school-life style comic that tells a heavily fictionalized autobiographical story about Mario and Isabel's high-school experience. The story tells a paranormal version of the events that actually took place. It involves a conspiracy

theory involving an ancient prophecy, and government agents. The characters Isabel and Art take the role of secret agents, spying on three boys. Byron, the brawn of the group. Kevin, the brain of the group. And Mario, the heart of the group. The story is based on a story written in high-school by the real-life Mario Lucero, Kevin Garner, Byron Alvarez, and Isabel Ruiz.

Karis is a story about two angels attending college. This universe from this story serves as the background for all of Heaven Sent Gaming's fictional worlds. Angels, demons, jinn, reapers, and vanguards, these are all important in Heaven Sent Gaming lore. Angels are the good servants of God, demons are the enemies of God and his angels, reapers are ancient angels that are also the basis of pagan gods, and vanguards are the protectors of the balance between the heavenly and earthly realms.

Other comic stories include; *BladeChick*, *Jinn*, *Koki'o Shade and Monkey*, and *Mouton*.

BladeChick is a superhero story starring a bookworm named Alexia that becomes a superhero named BladeChick in her times of need.

Jinn is a monster-hunting series that was devised by Heaven Sent Gaming. The cover and first page were drawn by a guest artist that goes by the name X-Arielle. She is a famous DeviantArt user.

Koki'o Shade and Monkey is a samurai and ninja story telling the story of a samurai Obama and a ninja W. Bush. They are both under their sensei's Washington and Lincoln.

Mouton a football playing superhero. He appears to be fat, but he is actually just compressed muscle and can perform superhuman feats.

Games

In college, they created several games. Including a puzzle game called *Balance* and a

prototype of a beat-em-up *Thad's World Destruction*. Game production has ceased until they can get a dedicated programmer.

Music

Heaven Sent Gaming's first publishment was a demo album written by an old high-school friend named John Marler. The demo was title *All We Are*. The album was for Marler's band named *Life Never Lost*. According to iTunes the track listing is as follows:

1. <i>Your Grace</i> 3:47	8. <i>Overdazed</i> 4:52
2. <i>Remember</i> 4:14	9. <i>All We Are</i> 4:11
3. <i>Try</i> 4:10	10. <i>19 Years</i> 3:48
4. <i>Amazing</i> 3:45	11. <i>Psalm 69</i> 0:40
5. <i>I Want to See Your Face</i> 3:57	12. <i>Wait</i> 2:29
6. <i>Pressuring Walls</i> 2:43	13. <i>Wood Blocks</i> 2:42
7. <i>On the Floor</i> 2:48	14. <i>Try (Cwookie Remonster)</i> 4:08

The band, Life Never Lost, is still active, and has produced another album, an E.P., called "*Rgh! (Wookie Sound With Inflection of Hope)*". The original demo album never made any sales

revenue, and never charted. It is, never-the-less, important for launching Heaven Sent Gaming's publishing career. Heaven Sent Gaming has continued to be supportive of local New Mexican musicians and of Life Never Lost in particular.

Mario Lucero himself performs Johnny Cash-style country-music live. But, has only released a single, titled *Intro, Yo* which is a rock-style song. He intends to produce an album, but no concrete release has been announced.

Novels

Heaven Sent Gaming has produced four novels. *Craft*, *Digital Domain*, *Iron*, and *Many: The Blog of a Space Probe*.

Many: The Blog of a Space Probe is a unique blog-style-novel that tells the story of a futuristic space-probe. The main character, Khora has a child-like mind that brings about a thought provoking take on the future exploration of our universe. The majority of the earliest post

dealt with smaller situations involving Khora. But, they have escalated to include a tyrannical government and a potential ending to space exploration.

Iron is a western style story involving a cowboy / buffalo soldier named Tom Marcus, turned vanguard, turned treasure hunter. As stated in the Comics "Karis" section a vanguard protects the balance between realms. Tom Marcus was on a vanguard mission, to chase down a golem, but could not find the golem. So he instead turned to life as a treasure hunter.

Craft started as a Minecraft based story. Instead it has become something unique. It is a story about a female NYPD officer that becomes teleported to another world. She fights in this digital looking world against a person named Caesar and his army.

Digital Domain is about a small cast of characters playing around in a futuristic MMO.

Video

Mario and Isabel perform let's plays under the name *HSGplays* and vlogs under the name *Mario's vlog*.

HSGplays is a video series starring Mario and Isabel as they play through video games. The gameplay footage is accompanied by audio commentary about their game they are playing.

Mario's vlogs are a set of videos that display the daily lives of Mario and Isabel. The video usually contain quick cuts, but are sometimes just raw footage.

Web

aywv is Heaven Sent Gaming's video game related news feed. The news comes from across the entire video game industry. And, has been known to break news before other game news sites.

Lack Of Updates

Heaven Sent Gaming is known for their lack of updates, but this has real-world origins. Fans of the popular webcomic Megatokyo are known for being patient. But, Heaven Sent Gaming's fans must be saints.

Mario and Isabel left college initially to take care Mario's grandparents, as you heard before, they were major influences on his life. Isabel accompanied and aided Mario during this time. It was a very heart-wrenching time for him, and they both put their lives aside during their time as caregivers. The grandparents had dementia, and both Mario and Isabel have sworn to fight the illness. But, after taking care of his grandparents for so long. Mario and Isabel were down on their luck and destitute. Since then they now maintain jobs; Mario's a web designer, and Isabel's a barista.

Where can I find Heaven Sent Gaming?

at HeavenSentGaming.com

And on social media!

- Twitter @HeavenSentTweet
- Facebook.com/Heaven.Sent.Gaming
- Instagram.com/hsgmi

How did we find out so much?

The *Internet Legends* series relies on deep-digging through references in public records, and on deep-digging through the work sources and histories of the subjects. This topic was particularly hard to research, though we stand by our findings. We have a team of editors responsible for fact-checking and reliability, they each come from multiple backgrounds in book publishing. Including seven individuals with experience at; 静山社 (**Say-Zan-Sha**), リクルート (**Recruit**), 小学館 (**Shogakukan**), and ゼンリン (**Zenrin**). We wish the best for Heaven Sent Gaming, and wish them luck through to the future. Any subject we cover, must have a history of reliability and must have published retractions; Heaven Sent Gaming is not any different and should be considered an independently reliable source, as they have posted retractions and admitted mistake in the past. Translators of our books must also ensure fact-checking with a team of at least three fact-checkers (that may remain anonymous, though their work histories should be released). The three editors and fact-checkers of the English translation of this book have backgrounds working at Scholastic, Penguin Random House, Macmillan, and HarperCollins.

This book was directly translated from Japanese, so it uses Japanese sentence structure. It is translated with basic grammar for quick-reading and understanding.

終わり

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